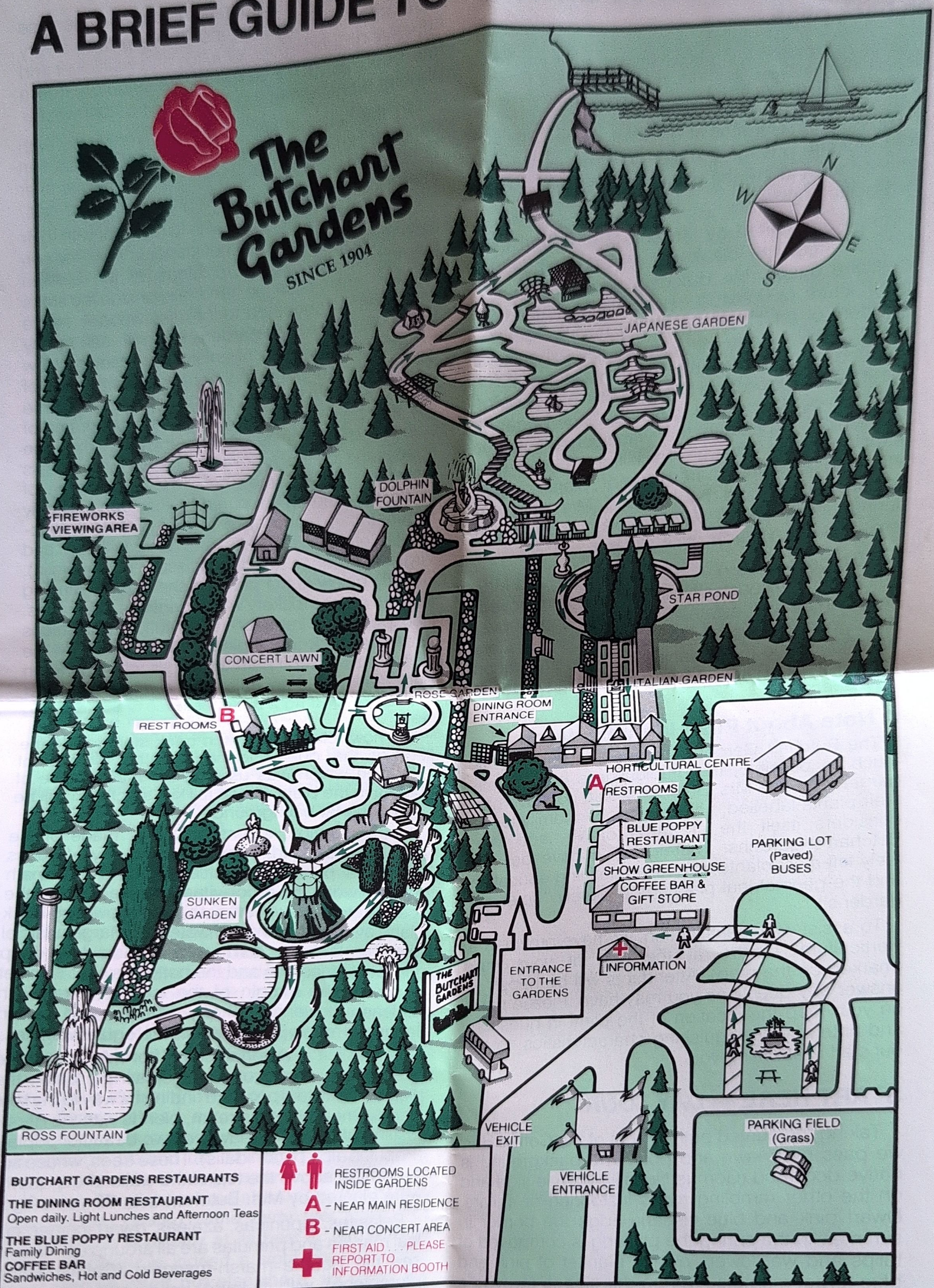
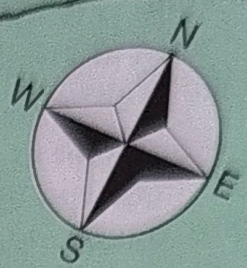


A BRIEF GUIDE TO



**The Butchart
Gardens**
SINCE 1904



BUTCHART GARDENS RESTAURANTS

THE DINING ROOM RESTAURANT
Open daily. Light Lunches and Afternoon Teas

THE BLUE POPPY RESTAURANT
Family Dining
COFFEE BAR
Sandwiches, Hot and Cold Beverages

RESTROOMS LOCATED INSIDE GARDENS

A - NEAR MAIN RESIDENCE

B - NEAR CONCERT AREA

+ FIRST AID... PLEASE REPORT TO INFORMATION BOOTH

THE ARROWS ON GUIDE INDICATE THE BEST ROUTE

This Guide is available in the following languages:
Arabic • Chinese • Danish • Dutch • English • French • German • Greek • Hebrew
Italian • Japanese • Korean • Polish • Russian • Spanish • Ukrainian

NOTE: If you are visiting at night we draw your attention to the directions on back page.

(Certain sections reprinted by kind permission of The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, New York City, from The Garden Journal of Jan.-Feb., 1951 issue.)

The Butchart Gardens at Tod Inlet, some 13 miles from Victoria, B.C. grace over 50 acres of a 130-acre estate and are the outstanding showplace of the Pacific Northwest.

They were started by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pim Butchart from the bleakness of an abandoned limestone quarry. Mr. Butchart, a pioneer in the manufacture of Portland cement in Canada, was President of a Cement Company having its plant nearby. The quarry, its limestone exhausted, offended Mrs. Butchart's sensitive feeling for beauty and she resolved to include it in her plans for landscaping their home grounds. Thus began a "gardening" experiment that was soon to have far reaching results. Through the skillful mixture of rare and exotic shrubs, trees and plants, often personally collected by Mr. and Mrs. Butchart during their extensive world travels, the now world famous Sunken Garden was created.

The Gardens, begun as a hobby by Mr. and Mrs. Butchart, were constantly expanded and improved. They named their estate "Benvenuto" and for over half a century hundreds of thousands of visitors have found the true meaning of "Welcome" when they visit The Butchart Gardens—let us join these sightseers.

A Note About Plant Identification:

The Butchart Gardens has tried to maintain, as much as possible, the graciousness of a private garden. Mr. and Mrs. Butchart would not have had their plants labelled; and the Butchart family today considers itself the stewards of Mr. and Mrs. Butchart's gardens. Therefore, we have deliberately left most plants unlabelled, leaving education and the geometrical plantings to purely "botanical gardens".

To assist with identification, we have provided a Horticultural Centre at the end of your walk (marked on the map). Attendants will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please mark on your map the location of the plant in question, and note any distinguishing characteristics, to aid our staff in assisting you.

START HERE — DAY TOUR

Taking the curved path in front of the Coffee Bar, we pass by a lawn and pool. The background is native dogwood (*Cornus Nuttallii*) on one side and on the other rambling roses festooned on pillars. Dwarf pink and blue viscaria edge the border in summer. In the spring the planting is composed of tulips and wallflowers over a blanket of pink and blue forget-me-nots. The border slopes away to a lawn which is dotted with exceptionally fine specimens of native maples. Rose standards edge the lawn nearest to us, polyanthus, forget-me-nots and wallflowers make a particularly fine showing in

spring. These are also planted around the rose standards. The forget-me-nots have proven a very effective ground-cover for tulips and wallflower and has been used for years at "Benvenuto". It is a popular planting method in the Pacific Northwest.

On the left we see a bower overflowing with hanging baskets. In the late spring these contain *Schizanthus* — the butterfly plant and in the summer they are filled with colourful *Begonias* and *Fuchsias*.

Leaving the spacious lawns to the right with their herbaceous borders for later inspection, we look on the left for the sign "Up Steps to the Sunken Garden" and notice the hand rails beside the steps are cement, fabricated to look like wood — as we travel through the garden we will see many examples of this type of artistry with cement. Now we saunter along a path that brings us to the top of the walls of the Sunken Garden spread out some fifty feet below us — a breath-taking panorama of colour. The eye is drawn towards the fine specimens of the arbor-vitae (*Thuja occidentalis fastigiata*). These trees have the appearance of being trimmed while in reality they are naturally symmetrical; their dense foliage makes a spectacular effect. The walls are hung with ivy and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). Directly below is the path we shall follow, winding through a large rockery where gentians, saxifrages, lithospermum, Lebanon candytuft, pentstemons and other rock and alpine plants abound. At the bottom, the central path winds gracefully between bed after bed of annuals with flowering trees and shrubs planted right up to the base of the towering walls.

We now follow the switch back staircase to the floor of the quarry formed by the removal of limestone which was used in the manufacture of cement in the plant whose tall kiln stack can still be seen in the far background.

In this section, extensive use is made of the weeping rosebud, Japanese cherry (*Prunus subhirtella pendula*). A little further on, the path goes between the arbor-vitae, and we come to the open stretch of lawn; on our right is a towering Rock Island overlooking the still waters of a large artificial lake. The lake was formed by a particularly deep pocket of limestone and the bottom is over fifty feet in spots. The margin of the lake is dotted with azaleas, flowering cherry, plum, and dwarf Japanese maple, both cutleaf and regular varieties.

On the left a waterfall starts from the top of the quarry. The sound of water splashing down the jagged rocks to a pool and finding its way to the lake along a meandering stream, blends with the gentle rustling of the silver leaves of two beautiful poplars (*Populus alba pyramidalis*). These trees, whose tips sway high above the top of the walls of the quarry, were planted by Mrs. Butchart over 70 years ago.

Petasites, japonicas, azaleas, dwarf juniper, cut-leaf maples and primulas are all around us. Here we see the double marsh-marigold (*Caltha palustris flore pleno*), with its lovely yellow blooms, and the large-leaved rhubarb-like plant, *Gunnera*.

Reaching the other side of the lake by a path which follows the shoreline, we look back and notice the reflections in the water. All around us are iris,

azaleas, flowering Japanese crabs (*Malus floribunda*), sycamore maples and purple-leaved flowering plums and beds of anemone and polyanthus. An arm of the lake winds around a Rock Island and beside it beds of dwarf pink and white astilbes nestle at the feet of beautiful weeping willows. Through their branches another lawn is revealed with its perennial borders backed with banks of large-flowered St. John's wort (*Hypericum calycinum*) and dotted with Japanese maples.

In 1964, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of The Butchart Gardens, the fountain you now see was completed. The cascading water rises seventy feet, providing a magnificent display by day. At night this fountain is an unforgettable sight with its spectacular sequences brilliantly illuminated by many variations of coloured lights.

We continue along a Lombardy poplar-lined, sloping cement road which runs the entire length of the Sunken Garden on the West side. On our right, across the lawn from us, we see again the Rock Island; on its side are planted alpinas, dwarf shrubs and climbing roses, and on the summit are flowering trees including a native *Arbutus*. Beside the winding stone steps leading to the top are fine specimens of the Japanese hydrangea vine (*Schisophragma hydrangeoides*).

Pausing on the high bridge, we look down on a large bed which is planted each summer with Dahlias. Two fine specimens of Silver birch are directly ahead of us; to the right a flowering Crab and a *Prunus Pissardi*. Below us, to the left, a small bed at the foot of an outcropping of rock contains polyanthus and prize daffodils in the spring, later snapdragons in variety and later tangerine and rusty-red Marigolds and Marguerites take their place. A pink rose climbs up the rock in the summer, and on top the *Begonia Semperflorens* gives way in early fall, to a red *Salvia*.

We now have a choice of two routes: one, a path to the left past the concert area to an old ivy-covered barn and on through a peony and Dahlia lined walk which brings us to the Rose Garden; the other passes the Rhododendron Grove, then a turn to the left takes us by a short path to the Rose Garden with its central lawn surrounded by dwarf boxwood hedges and flagstone walk. In these rose beds are many varieties of the Hybrid Tea Rose; you will find many of your old favourites, as well as some of the newest that have been developed. Standing at the entrance, we look over a frog fountain and see to our right a "wishing well" of Italian wrought-iron work. Directly ahead, across the lawn, a rose arbor leads to the upper lawn with the residence in the background. Behind us, running the length of the rose garden, is a long cement walk with old-fashioned English perennial borders covered by rose arches, spaced some thirty feet apart. The Rose Garden is usually at its best in July and the wealth of colour is indeed a sight not only in the Rose Garden itself but elsewhere, as roses are planted extensively throughout The Butchart Gardens.

Passing through an open pergola, whose arches are festooned with climbing and arbor roses, and

between hedges of English Boxwood we come upon vast beds of the dwarf polyanthus rose (*Rosa floribunda*).

At the end of the path through a series of rose arches, a curved concrete path leads first to a set of curved teak benches, then to a bronze fountain. These classical dolphins were cast in Florence, Italy.

Just past this fountain we turn left and pass under a Japanese Torii. Japanese maples, variegated *Fatsia japonica*, and umbrella-pine (*Sciadopitys verticillata*) surround the source of a small waterfall. Passing down steps and along a path that follows the winding pools shaded by weeping willows, we see Japanese azaleas, bamboo, dwarf rhododendrons, *Kerria japonica* and junipers. During the spring, on the left, is the famous Blue Poppy of Tibet (*Meconopsis betonicifolia Baileyi*). Mrs. Butchart was one of the first in North America to have this rare and delicate flower — the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens shared their first seeds with her. Captain Bailey, after whom the flower was named, was astonished to see the "blue poppy" flowering in all its glory here only a short time after it was introduced into cultivation in Great Britain. A lacquered bridge, small summerhouses, dwarf trees and shrubs and Japanese iris emphasize the motif of a Japanese garden.

Woodland walks leading from this area are lined with maidenhair fern and lily-of-the-valley. Through the trees we catch an occasional glimpse of the sea and if we follow the path to the end, we come to a lookout point where there is an excellent view of Brentwood Bay.

The residence is about 100 feet above sea level and the grounds slope gently through the Japanese Garden to the seashore. We could wander along the many enticing paths or sit in a tea house in the centre of a pool, but we must continue our journey. We leave the Japanese garden by a long flight of steps or, for those who prefer a gradual climb, by a landscaped rock bordered path which brings us to the lower lawn terrace. On each side of the steps are roses.

At the top of the steps is the "Star-Pond". English Boxwood traces the outline of the pond at the water's edge, and between the points of the "star" are beds of colourful annuals, while a Frog Fountain rises from the centre.

Continuing around the "Star-Pond" we come to the Italian Garden, which is a rectangular area enclosed on the North side by Lawson cypress over fifty feet high. Against the south wall of this garden, formed by the residence, is a bronze statue of Mercury, a fine example of Florentine art. On the East side is a long arched walk under that part of the residence enclosing the bowling alley. On the West, a bank of roses is surmounted by the lower lawn terrace which, in turn, is separated from the upper lawn by an ivy-covered wall and an antirrhinum border.

The Italian Garden has, as its central theme, a rectangular lily pond fed by a mermaid-and-fish fountain and bordered by flower beds. Instead of grass, white concrete is used effectively between

the regularly spaced raised beds around the pool. In the spring these beds are planted with tulips and forget-me-nots, followed by asters, antirrhinum, stocks, blue salvia, zinnia, verbenas, and alyssum in summer. In the bed edging the pool, polyanthus and dwarf pink forget-me-nots are replaced in summer by wax-leaf begonias and ageratum. Around the pool are weeping rose standards. Hanging baskets and window boxes filled with schizanthus, lobelia, geranium and variegated trailing nepeta and begonias, grace the ivy-covered walls and arches of the residence.

Passing under the house by way of the tunnel on the left and following the cement road we come to the Show Greenhouse. On the right, beside this path, you will notice some bronze animals, which were acquired in Florence, Italy. The bronze dolphin fountain near the entrance to the Japanese Garden is also part of this collection. The greenhouse is stocked in winter with primulas, cinerarias, cyclamen and calceolarias with schizanthus, and regal pelargonium (Martha Washington geranium) later. In the summer-time, begonias in all their varied colours and form make a magnificent showing. Chrysanthemums replace the begonias in late October. In other greenhouses nearby, exotic and rare plants and flowers are brought on for later display, both in the Show House and in the Conservatory of the Restaurant in the main residence.

Adjacent to the Show Greenhouse are the Coffee Bar, The Blue Poppy Restaurant and Gift Shop. In addition there is The Dining Room in the main residence. The entrance is behind the white trellised private garden. We shall leave The Butchart Gardens through an avenue of hawthorn trees and up a cement road lined with hundreds of flowering cherry trees.

The Butchart Gardens are open to the public all year round. While retaining the personality of their founders, which is more particularly revealed in unique and individual styles of planting and colour arrangement, the Gardens are kept up-to-date with new varieties of flowers, shrubs, and trees. Although on so large a scale, the Gardens have all the charm of a well tended private garden, mainly because they are privately owned by the Butchart family. Now both Mr. and Mrs. Butchart have passed away and the Gardens are under the active management of one of their grandchildren, Mr. R. Ian Ross.

NIGHT ILLUMINATION: 1953 saw the culmination of one of the most exciting undertakings ever attempted at The Butchart Gardens. This was the premiere showing of the estate through the medium of Night Illumination. Here is the largest Night Illumination project of this type on the North American Continent.

Each evening from dusk, during the summer, striking displays of floral grandeur, accented by hundreds of hidden lights, thrill the visitor at every turn.

When visiting The Butchart Gardens at night may we suggest you follow these easy directions as to your route, thus enabling you to fully appreciate and enjoy the many exciting effects we have arranged for you.

DON'T RUSH THROUGH AS SOON AS THE LIGHTS GO ON – take your time – the DARKER the sky the BETTER the effect. It is the CONTRAST between darkness and artificial light that gives the best picture. Be sure to look UP to the tree tops – AROUND on every side and DOWN into the pools for their reflections. There are hundreds of appealing views to thrill you.

IF YOU DISCOVER THAT ALL THE LIGHTS ARE SHINING DIRECTLY IN YOUR EYES, LOOK BEHIND YOU, YOU MAY DISCOVER THAT YOU ARE WALKING AROUND THE GARDENS IN THE WRONG DIRECTION.

NIGHT TOUR

START HERE

Start your night tour by leaving the entrance and take the curved walk in front of the coffee bar. Note the conservatory in the main residence with its ever-changing coloured lights, and continue to the sign, "Up steps to the Sunken Garden", follow these directions and you will come to the FAMOUS SUNKEN GARDEN. When you get there take a good look around – it's quite a sight. Then go down – follow the lights and glance everywhere. We have all sorts of different vistas lighted for you.

Continue along the path and when you get to the lake – LOOK DOWN. After viewing the lake the Fountain presents a unique and singular water picture. It has built into it unusual delay control devices which create a rainbow illumination effect of water and colour which never repeats itself. The Fountain should be viewed at least five to ten minutes. Leave the SUNKEN GARDEN by the far end – come up the long cement road as far as the ROSE GARDEN – just follow the lights – walk through the Rose Garden across the lawns and under the Torii to the Japanese Garden. Wander down the steps and through this section and afterwards come back by way of the STAR-POND and ITALIAN GARDEN then under the house and pass the GREENHOUSES to where you started.

We think you will like what you see – rain or shine.

We hope you enjoy your visit with us this evening, and if you have not done so already, visit The Butchart Gardens again by day light and see the many examples of horticultural perfection that have made The Butchart Gardens, for over eighty years, renowned throughout the world.